

adds Augustine, they identify Isis with Ceres,¹ Further, at harvest-time, when the Egyptian reapers had cut the first stalks, they laid them down and beat their breasts, wailing and calling upon Isis.² The custom has been already explained as a lament for the corn-spirit slain under the sickle.³ Amongst the epithets by which Isis is designated in the inscriptions are "Creatress of green things/" "Green goddess, whose green colour is like unto the greenness of the earth," "Lady of Bread," « Lady of Beer," "Lady of Abundance."⁵

According to Brugsch she is "not only the creatress of the fresh verdure of vegetation which covers the earth, but is actually the green corn-field itself, which is personified as a goddess,"⁵ This is confirmed by her epithet *Sochit* or *Socket*, meaning "a corn-field/" a sense which the word still retains in Coptic.⁰ The Greeks conceived of Isis as a corn-goddess, for they identified her with Demeter.⁷ In a Greek epigram she is described as "she who has given birth to the fruits of the earth/" and "the mother of the ears of corn" ;^s and in a hymn composed in her honour she speaks of herself as "queen of the wheat-field," and is described as "charged with the care of the fruitful furrow's wheat-rich path."⁹ Accordingly, Greek or Roman artists often represented her with ears of corn on her head or in her hand.¹⁰

Such, we may suppose, was Isis in the olden time, a Refinement rustic Corn-Mother adored with uncouth rites by Egyptian *^HzSon*" swains.

But the homely features of the clownish goddess of isis in could hardly be traced in the refined, the saintly form which, *^po^iT'* spiritualized by ages of religious evolution, she presented to larity of

her worshippers of after days as the true
 wife, the tender in the

Roman

- ¹ Augustine, *De civitate Dei**viii. ⁷ Herodotus, ii. 59, 156;
 Diodorus
 27. Tertullian says that Isis wore a Siculus, i. 13, 25, 96;
 Apollo lorus, *Bibliotheca*, ii. i. 3; J. Tzetzes,
 wreath of the corn she had discovered *Sc/iol.*
 (De corona, 7). on Lycophron, 212. See further
 W.
² Diodorus Siculus, i. 14. 2. Drexler, s.v. "Isis," in W. H. Ros-
³ See above, p. 45, and vol. i. p. 232. cher's *Lexikoi dcr griech.*
 und ram.
⁴ H. Brugsch, *Religion nnd iVytho- Mythologie*, ii. 443 sq.
logie der alien Aegypter, p. 647; ⁸ *Anthologia*
Plamidea ^ cclxiv. i.
 E. A. Wallis Budge, *Osiris and the* ⁹ *Epigrammata Graeca ex*
lapidibus
Egyptian Resurrection ^ ii. 277. *conkcta*, ed. G. Kaibel (Berlin, 1878),
⁶ If. Brugsch, *op. cit.* p. 649. Com- No. 1028, pp. 437 sq.;
Orphica, ed.
 pare E. A. Wallis Budge, *The. Gods of* E. Abel (Leipsic and
 Prague, 1885),
the Egyptians, ii. 216. pp. 295 sqq.
¹⁰ H. Brugsch, *loc. cit.* ¹⁰ W. Drexler, *op. cit.* ii. 448 sqq.